(d) what is the criterion for selection of candidates for new telecom centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, there are 278 STD PCOs/Telecom Centres in Nagpur.

(b) It is proposed to add 147 new STD PCOs by the end of March '94.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Only unemployed persons who have Passed 8th or middle school and above in the case of rural areas and matriculate or High School and above in the case of urban areas are eligible to apply for allotment of STD PCOs Preference in given to the handicapped including blind persons, SC/ST applicants Ex-servicemen, War-widows, Retired DOT employees or their dependants, dependants of Freedom fighters and Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

Telecom Centres in the Tribal Areas in Chandrapur and Gadchiroli

801. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many STD, PCO Telecom. Centres are there in the remote tribal areas of Chandrapur and Gadchiroli districts of Maharashtra;

(b) why have many centres not been allotted in these naxalite infested areas where they are specially required;

(c) whether Government would consider giving more centres to tribals in these areas; and

(d) what action will be taken in order to encourage tribals in making telecom centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) 3 STD PCOs are working in the remote tribal areas of Chandrapur and Gadchiroli districts of Maharashtra.

(b) STD PCOs can be allotted only In places where STD facility has been provided. By end of 8th Plan all exchanges are planned to have STD facility. STD PCOs will be progressively allotted in phase with the commissioning of STD facility in the exchanges of these areas.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Wide publicity is proposed to be given among the people in the tribal areas to run these STD/PCOs as and when they become feasible.

PCO's in the Residential Premises in Nagpur

802. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many PCOs are there in the residential premises in Nagpur city;

(b) how these PCOs have been sanctioned in; residential premises;

(c) whether these PCOs are being used for personal use of the owners;

(d) if so, what action will be taken against officers responsible for sanctioning PCOs in private premises;

(e) by when such action will be taken; and

(f) by when these PCOs in residential premises will be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) 5 PCOs have been installed in residential premises in Nagpur City.

(b) STD PCOs can be located even in residential premises so long as there is access to the public.

(c) to (f) In case personal use of PCO's is proved, sanction of such PCO's can be cancelled and instruction has been issued in this behalf.